



seminário
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DEFESA
NACIONAL

2ND NATIONAL DEFENCE SEMINAR

The National Defence Seminar is an initiative of the Portuguese Minister of National Defence, which aims to discuss annually the most significant issues for National Defence, bringing together the relevant stakeholders and a broader community of interested people who accompany and participate in this public policy at the heart of sovereignty.

Due to the current public health situation, related to the COVID-19 pandemic, this second edition, organised in partnership with the National Defence Institute, will run exclusively through digital platforms on November 26 and 27.

The first day, on November 26, will gather a restricted group of stakeholders, in order to address two central themes. The first is the participation of the Armed Forces in complex crises response missions, including in combating the COVID-19 pandemic, identifying lessons learned and relevant adjustments in an increasingly unstable context. The second theme focuses on the Human Resources of Defence, a priority for the Portuguese Government, which resulted in the adoption, in 2019, of an action plan with a broad set of measures. Here too, the challenges posed by new domains of operations, such as cyber or space, as well as the impact of new technologies, require a reflection on the necessary adjustments in the policies designed to respond to the needs of those serving National Defence.

The second day will feature a session broadcasted exclusively on National Defence online platforms, highlighting the major challenges for the future of European defence, in the framework of an upcoming European Union Portuguese Presidency, taking place in the first half of 2021.

We will address issues such as the global presence of the European Union (EU), and the contribution that a more robust European defence policy can make to the ambition of having a more geopolitical Europe. Also, the importance of enhancing the effectiveness of the EU's military action and the measures needed to tackle new threats arising from technological innovation or climate change, among others. Finally, the important topic of defence economics and the impetus that the development of this area can give to the economic recovery of our country and Europe will also be addressed.

We have a wide range of speakers, including political and military decision makers, as well as other entities from civil society, including the private sector and academia. We hope that this second edition of the National Defence Seminar will provide an open debate to those interested in National Defence.